

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
FOR
TOWN OF PLAINS, MONTANA
WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS**

TO: ALL INTERESTED PERSONS

Date: January 20, 2006
Action: Funding Drinking Water System Improvements
Location of Project: Town of Plains, Montana
DEQ Funding: \$281,000.
Total Project Cost: \$281,000.

An environmental review has been conducted by the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) for proposed funding for improvements to the Town of Plains' water system. The project involves the installation of a new Well No. 1 50 hp vertical turbine pump and motor, well house expansion and piping, approximately 100 feet of 8-inch water transmission main and all associated controls, telemetry, and appurtenances. The project also includes the purchase of an emergency backup generator. The purpose of the project is to make improvements to the Town's water system needed to protect public health.

The affected environment will primarily be the Town of Plains, and the immediate vicinity. The human environment affected will include residents and visitors of the aforementioned areas. Based on the environmental assessment (EA), the project is not expected to have any significant adverse impacts upon terrestrial and aquatic life or habitat, including endangered species, water quality or quantity, air quality, geological features, cultural or historical features, or social quality.

This project will be funded with a low interest loan through the Montana Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Program, administered by the Montana Department of Environmental Quality and the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation. The loan will be repaid by a General Obligation Bond tax assessment.

The DEQ utilized the following references in completing its environmental review of this project: a Uniform Environmental Checklist for Montana Public Facility Projects and a Uniform Application for Montana Public Facility Projects (dated June 2005) both by Professional Consultants Inc., the Town of Plains' consulting engineer; and an environmental checklist completed by the DEQ. In addition to these references, letters were sent to the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT), Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP), the Montana Department of Natural Resources & Conservation (DNRC), United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the Montana State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and the United State Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Responses have been received from the USFWS, MDT and SHPO. These references are available for review upon request by contacting:

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P.O. Box 200901
Helena, MT 59620-0901
Phone (406) 444-5316
Email: rashton@mt.gov

Comments on this finding or on the EA may be submitted to DEQ at the above address. After evaluating substantive comments, DEQ may revise the EA or determine if an EIS is necessary. This finding will stand if no substantive comments are received during the 30-day comment period or if substantive comments are received and evaluated and the environmental impacts are still determined to be non-significant.

Signed,

Todd Teegarden, Chief
Technical & Financial Assistance Bureau

cc: Tom Hanson, P.E., PCI
Anna Miller, DNRC